

Monthly Morbidity Report

September 2003

Highlights

The first positive human [West Nile Virus](#) case, that was aquired in Utah, was reported to the Office of Epidemiology this month.

The Office of Epidemiology received a report on a positive [hepatitis A](#) patient that was a food caterer at a wedding. The case and identified contacts were contacted and received immunoglobulin as a disease prevention measure.

Five bats tested positive for [rabies](#) in September, including the following:

- A hoary bat from Uintah County. A vaccinated dog was potentially exposed to the bat. The dog was given a booster dose of rabies vaccine.
- A long-eared myotis bat from Iron County. A person was exposed to the animal and received rabies post-exposure prophylactic treatment.
- A hoary bat in Salt Lake County. All individuals that had possible contact with the bat were interviewed and it was determined that there was no human exposure.
- A hoary bat was found in Davis County. A cat exposure was reported. The Davis County Health Department, along with Davis County Animal Control, followed up to determine vaccination status of the cat and take appropriate actions.
- An additional hoary bat was found in Davis County that involved another cat exposure. The local health department, along with local animal control officers, followed up to determine vaccination status of the cat and take appropriate actions.

The Office of Epidemiology assisted in the investigations of several new [pertussis](#) cases, including a report from Weber County regarding a positive pertussis case in a daycare. There were 16 confirmed cases reported among Salt Lake, Weber, Utah, and Davis counties during the month, compared with only 4 confirmed cases reported during September 2002. The Utah Department of Health released disease prevention information to the media.

The Office of Epidemiology assisted in the investigation of a cluster of [legionellosis](#) cases in Salt Lake County.

Environmental sampling occurred, but no source of infection was identified.

The number of [viral meningitis](#) cases reported this month (86) was substantially higher than the number (14) reported during September 2002. There may be several reasons for the noted increase. One possible cause may be due to an increase in testing for West Nile Virus infections due to the recent emergence of this pathogen in Utah. Another cause may be due to the seasonality of enteroviruses. Enterovirus activity may increase every few years, particularly in the fall.

There were 15 confirmed [E. coli O157:H7](#) infections reported to the Office of Epidemiology this month, a number that was above the 5-year average (1998-2002). Many patient isolates had indistinguishable genetic patterns, but no source of infection was identified.

The total number of confirmed* cases for 20 selected diseases, reported by Utah [health districts](#), is provided below ([Table 1](#) and [Figure 1](#)). Click on the disease names in Table 1 to access their corresponding fact sheets. Click [here](#) for sexually-transmitted disease epidemiologic data. Click [here](#) for AIDS/HIV epidemiological data.

* There is no "Confirmed Case" classification that has been defined for SARS. Therefore, the number of SARS cases reported to date represents only the number of "Suspect" or "Probable" cases.

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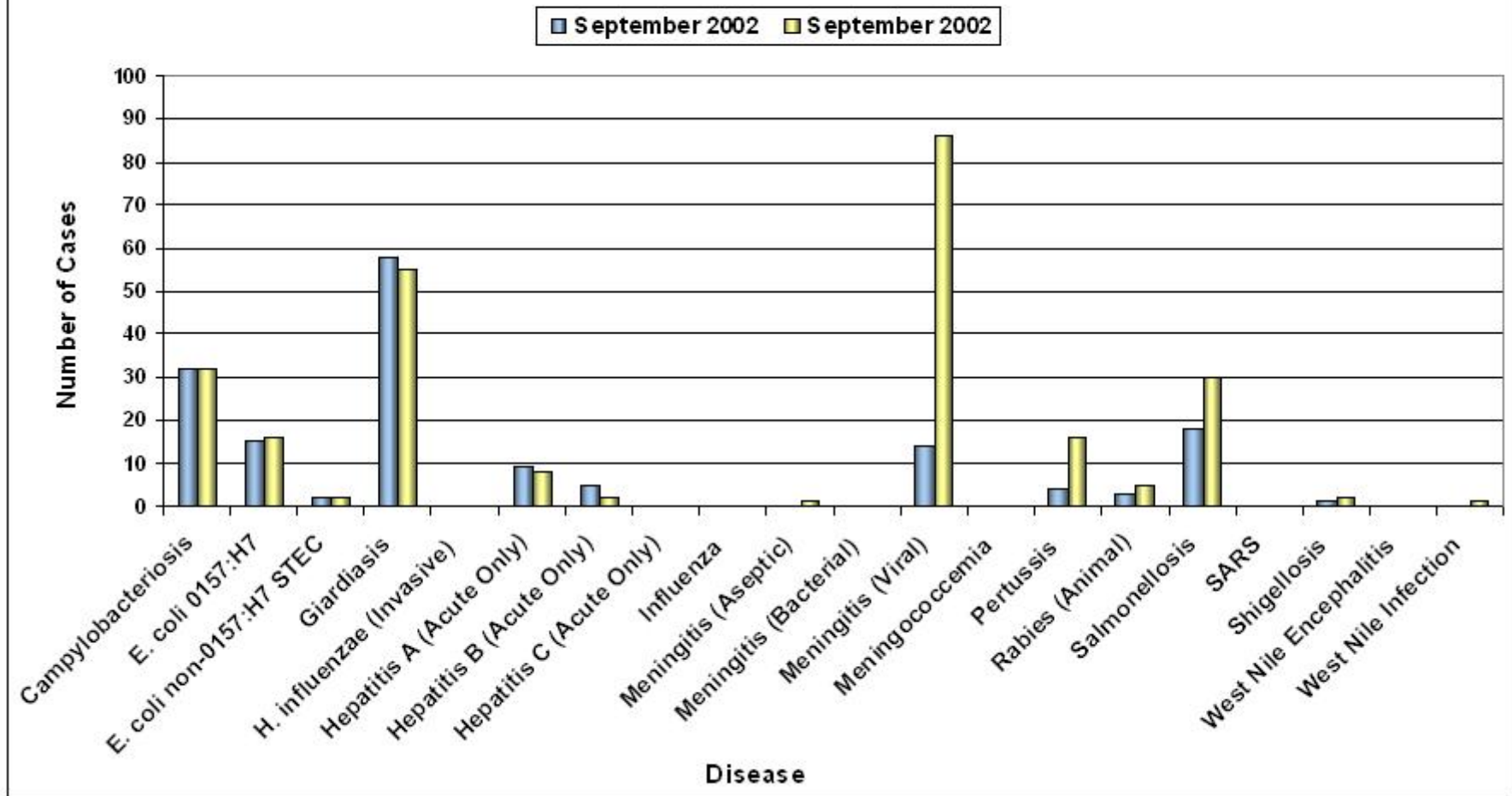
Updated: 11/07/2003 (DJ)

Table 1. Cumulative Number of Confirmed* Diseases, by Health District, Reported in Utah, September 2003

Health District	Campylobacteriosis	<i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7	<i>E. coli</i> non-0157:H7 STEC	Giardiasis	<i>H. influenzae</i> (Invasive)	Hepatitis A (Acute Only)	Hepatitis B (Acute Only)	Hepatitis C (Acute Only)	Influenza	Meningitis (Aseptic)	Meningitis (Bacterial)	Meningitis (Viral)	Meningococemia	Pertussis	Rabies (Animal)	Salmonellosis	SARS	Shigellosis	West Nile Encephalitis	West Nile Infection
Bear River	7	2		1		1										2				
Central	6	2		3												1				
Davis	2	1		1		3						12		2	2	2				
Salt Lake	7	6	1	1		4						52		9	1	13		2		
Southeast	1	1		21												1				
Southwest		1		2											1	1				
Summit	1											1								
Tooele				2								3				1				
Tricounty	1			2											1					1
Utah County	4	2		18						1		8		2		6				
Wasatch				1																
Weber-Morgan	2	1	1	3			2					10		3		3				
September 2003	32	16	2	55	0	8	2	0	0	1	0	86	0	16	5	30	0	2	0	1
September 2002	32	15	2	58	0	9	5	0	0	0	0	14	0	4	3	18	0	1	0	0
2003 To Date	190	50	20	271	10	31	38	0	346	2	0	140	0	61	14	167	6	35	1	2
2002 To Date	194	56	17	242	15	39	34	4	384	0	0	57	4	38	10	133	0	22	0	0

* There is no "Confirmed Case" classification that has been defined for SARS. Therefore, the number of SARS cases reported to date represents only the number of "Suspect" or "Probable" cases.

Figure 1. Number of Confirmed* Cases, by Disease, Reported to the Office of Epidemiology,
September 2002 and September 2003



* There is no "Confirmed Case" classification that has been defined for SARS. Therefore, the number of SARS cases reported to date represents only the number of "Suspect" or "Probable" cases.